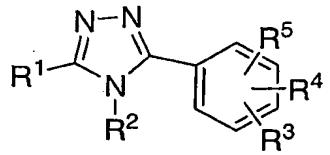
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a condition responsive to inhibition of 11β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-1 in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal a therapeuticallly effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

each n is 0, 1, or 2;

each p is 0, 1, or 2;

$R^1$ is aryl or heteroaryl wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of

pyridyl,

thienyl,

furyl,

pyrazolyl,

thiazolyl,

oxazolyl,

imidazolyl,

indolyl,

benzothiophenyl,

benzofuryl, and

benzimidazolyl;

in which aryl and heteroaryl are substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from $R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$;

$R^2$ is selected from the group consisting of

$C_{1-4}$ alkyl,

$C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, and

$(CH_2)_n$-$C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl;

$R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

formyl,

$C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

$C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heterocyclyl,
$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,
halogen,
$OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nN(R^7)_2$,
cyano,
$(CH_2)_nCO_2R^7$,
$NO_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7SO_2R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nS(O)_pR^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7C(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6C(O)R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6CO_2R^7$,
$O(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$CF_3$,
$CH_2CF_3$,
$OCF_3$,
$OCHCF_2$, and
$OCH_2CF_3$;

wherein aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy; and wherein any methylene ($CH_2$) carbon atom in $R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$ is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; or two substituents when on the same methylene ($CH_2$) carbon atom are taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a cyclopropyl group;

each $R^6$ is independently selected from the group consisting of
$C_{1-8}$ alkyl,
$C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,

$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl, and

$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl;

wherein alkyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, hydroxy, and amino; and aryl and heteroaryl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

or two $R^6$ groups together with the atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 8-membered mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from O, S, and $NC_{0-4}$ alkyl; and

each $R^7$ is hydrogen or $R^6$.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of diabetes, obesity, insulin resistance, a lipid disorder, hypertension, atherosclerosis, and Metabolic Syndrome.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein $R^3$ is hydrogen and $R^4$ and $R^5$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, $C_{2-3}$ alkynyloxy, $C_{1-5}$ alkyl, cyclopropyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, and $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein $R^1$ is phenyl or naphthyl each of which is substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from $R^3$.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein $R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, $C_{1-5}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylthio, and phenylsulfonyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of each is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein $R^1$ is heteroaryl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from $R^3$.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

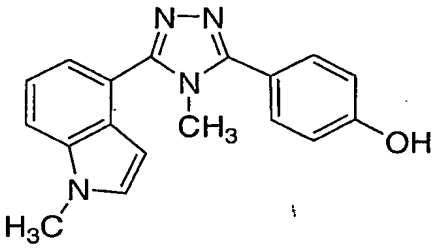
10. The method of Claim 8 wherein heteroaryl is pyrazolyl or indolyl, each of which is substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from $R^3$.

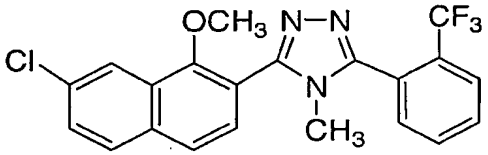
11. The method of Claim 10 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

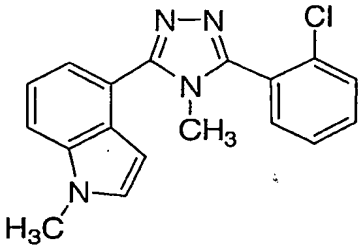
12. The method of Claim 10 wherein $R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of amino, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, $C_{1-5}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, phenyl, phenyloxy, phenylthio, and phenylsulfonyl, wherein the phenyl moiety of each is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy.

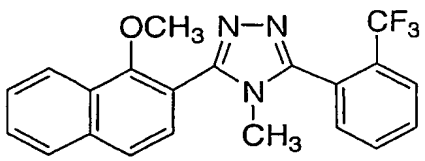
13. The method of Claim 12 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

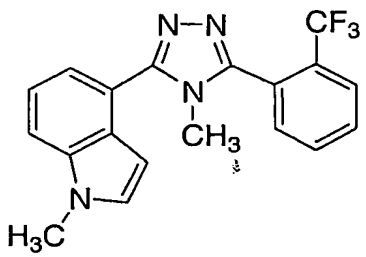
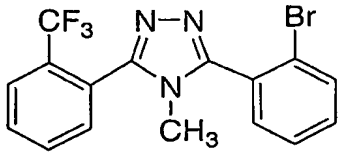
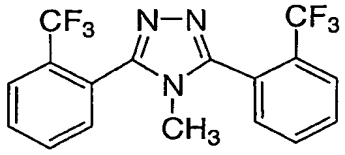
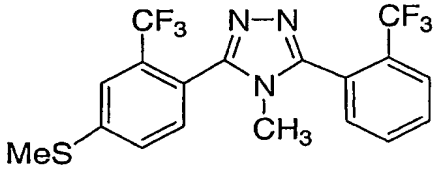
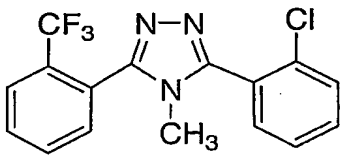
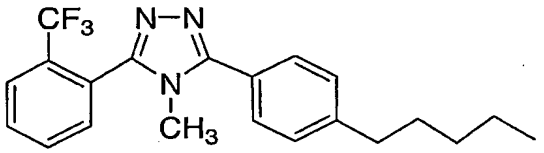
14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from the group consisting of:



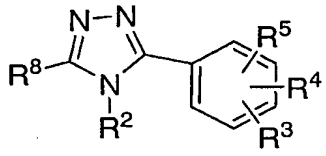








and

;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The method of Claim 2 wherein said diabetes is Type 2 diabetes.

16. A compound of structural formula II:


(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

each n is 0, 1, or 2;

each p is 0, 1, or 2;

$R^8$ is naphthyl or heteroaryl wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of

pyridyl,

thienyl,

furyl,

pyrazolyl,

thiazolyl,
oxazolyl,
imidazolyl,
indolyl,
benzothiophenyl,
benzofuryl, and
benzimidazolyl;

in which naphthyl and heteroaryl are substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from $R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$;

$R^2$ is methyl or cyclopropyl;

$R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$ are each independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
formyl,
$C_{1-6}$ alkyl,
$C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heterocyclyl,
$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,
halogen,
$OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nN(R^7)_2$,
cyano,
$(CH_2)_nCO_2R^7$,
$NO_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7SO_2R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nS(O)_pR^6$,
$(CH_2)_nSO_2OR^7$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^7C(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6C(O)R^6$,
$(CH_2)_nNR^6CO_2R^7$,
$O(CH_2)_nC(O)N(R^7)_2$,
$CF_3$,

$CH_2CF_3$,
$OCF_3$,
$OCHCF_2$, and
$OCH_2CF_3$;

wherein aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy; and wherein any methylene ($CH_2$) carbon atom in $R^3$, $R^4$, and $R^5$ is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; or two substituents when on the same methylene ($CH_2$) carbon atom are taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form a cyclopropyl group;

each $R^6$ is independently selected from the group consisting of

$C_{1-8}$ alkyl,
$(CH_2)_n$-aryl,
$(CH_2)_n$-heteroaryl, and
$(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl;

wherein alkyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, hydroxy, amino; and aryl and heteroaryl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

or two $R^6$ groups together with the atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 8-membered mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from O, S, and $NC_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

each $R^7$ is hydrogen or $R^6$.

17. The compound of Claim 16 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

18. The compound of Claim 16 wherein $R^8$ is indolyl or pyrazolyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from $R^3$.

19. The compound of Claim 18 wherein $R^2$ is methyl.

20. A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-methyl-3,5-bis[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[4-(methylthio)-2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;

4-methyl-3-(4-pentylphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
4-{4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl}-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(7-chloro-1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[4-methyl-5-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-4-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]phenol;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-[5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]-1-methyl-1*H*-indole;
4-methyl-3-(2-methyl-1-naphthyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1,4-dichloro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(4-chloro-1-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(1-fluoro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
*N*-methyl-2-{4-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl}naphthalen-1-amine;
3,5-bis-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-[2-(ethylthio)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-cyclopropylphenyl)-5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[(2-chloro-4-(ethylthio)phenyl)]-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[(2-difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-[(2-difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-phenoxyphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-[2-(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)phenyl]-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-{2-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]phenyl}-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;

3-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-propoxyphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3,5-bis(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3,5-bis(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(3-chloro-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(5-chloro-6-methoxy-1-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[4-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[4-chloro-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trichloro-1-naphthyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-methyl-5-(2-methylphenyl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
4-methyl-3-(2-methylphenyl)-5-[2-(trifluoromethoxyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-cyclopropyl-5-[(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(4-chloro-3-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylthio)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[(2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-bromophenyl)-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-[2-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-5-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole;
3-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-[2-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazole; and
4-[4-methyl-5-(1,2,3-trimethyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl]phenol;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with Claim 16 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with Claim 20 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.